

GATHERING

Express to each other your desire to come together in the name of God, united by love in Jesus Christ. Be aware of the Holy's Spirits presence. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

(L): The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(P): And also with you.

(L): The risen Christ is with us.

(P): Praise the Lord!

***HYMN** *Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine* #606

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

O God, Searcher of all hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thank for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend, you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank you for your loving care, which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

(R) We Praise your holy name, O God.

You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands of our sister and brothers. **(R)**

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and have given us your peace. You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and the witness of your Church. **(R)**

You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors. **(R)**

You remembered us when we forgot you. You followed us even when we tried to flee from you. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace. **(R)**

OFFERING

**The Doxology*

95

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen

***HYMN** *Spirit of the Living God*

#393

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

PROCLAMATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God. Through baptism, we have entered this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator. He sealed it with his own blood, that it might last for ever.

On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ, the Source and Perfecter our faith. On the other side, we are pledged to live nor more for ourselves but only for Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

From time to time we renew our covenant with God, especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant and gather at the Lord's table.

Today, however, we meet, as the generations before us have met, to renew the covenant that binds us to God. Let us make this covenant of God our own.

WESLEY' COVENANT SERVICE

INVITATION

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go to Christ and pray:

Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. Christ will have no servants except by consent; Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by holy covenant. To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to the admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you; in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ. Consider what your sins are. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all. Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not on your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God. With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord. Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

COVENANT PRAYER

O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.

God requires that you shall put away your idols.

I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.

God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God.

O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So Be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

**HYMN O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

#117

INSTALLATION OF LAY LEADERSHIP

Dear friends, you have been called by God and chosen by the people of God for leadership in the church. This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us and for us. In love we thank you for accepting your obligation and challenge you to offer your best to the Lord, to this people, and to our ministry in the world. Live a life in Christ and make known in your witness and your work.

Today we recognize and install the following officers of the church:

Howard Webb - AC Chair,
Ivan Stephenson – Lay Leader, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference
Jane Slaton – Treasurer
Kellie Macris – AC & Financial Secretary, PPRC, Parsonage, Finance
Tami Renner – Membership Secretary, Nominations/Lay Leadership, Finance
Samuel Findley – Youth Representative
Sherry Burns – PPRC Chair,
Rick Fleming – PPR, Trustees
Heather Stephenson – PPR, Trustees, Cemetery
Donnie Findley – PPR, Nominations/Lay Leadership
Barbara Dickerson – PPR, Trustees
Sandra Brown – Parsonage
Sue Holcomb – Parsonage, Finance Chair, Cemetery Chair
Bilee Jane Fleming – Nominations/Lay Leadership
Carol Brown – Nominations/Lay Leadership, Finance
Martha Whittemore – Nominations/Lay Leadership, Cemetery
Martha Fleming – Nominations/Lay Leadership, Finance
Michael Hall – Trustees
Angie Cape – Trustees
Aubrey Holcomb – Trustees, Cemetery
Perry Boleman – Trustees
Anita Johnson – Trustees,
Alton Whittemore – Trustees, Finance, Cemetery
Ben Ray - Cemetery
Francis Osley - Cemetery

Do you this day acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world?

I will.

Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace?

I will.

Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been chosen?

I will.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants who have been given particular ministries in your church. Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in your service. Keep before them the example of our Lord, who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all. Let them share his ministry and consecration, that they may enter into his joy. Guide them in their work. Reward their faithfulness with the knowledge that through them your purposes are accomplished; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dear friends, rejoice that God provides laborers for the vineyards. Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your counsel, your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?
We Will.

***HYMN Whom Shall I Send?**

#582

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

**Please stand if you're able*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. – 2 Corinthians 13:14

Read Through the Bible

Pick up our 2017 plan before you leave. It is a different order and method than last year's. This past week we read; Gen 1-3, Josh 1-5, Psalms 1-2, Job 1-2, Isa 1-6, Matt 1-2, and Rom 1-2. Jan 9-15 we will read; Gen 4-7, Josh 6-10, Psalms 3-5, Job 3-4, Isa 7-11, Matt 3-4, Rom 3-4.

Each day Pastor Ed posts selected verses from our daily reading then offers a devotional thought. These are posted on Carnesville UMC's Facebook page and blog page - carnesvilleumc.org. Please join in, make a comment, share with each other what God puts on your heart. Invite friends to read and pray.

Church Calendar – Future Events

Jan 11 – Administrative Council Meeting, 7 pm

Jan 12 – Appointment Preference Forms due to District Office

Jan 15 – Receive Human Relations Day General Conference Offering

Jan 15 – PPR Committee meet with District Superintendent, 5:00 pm at **Jones Chapel UMC**, 5601 Hwy 29 North, Danielsville, GA 30633

Jan 22-23 – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson visits the Athens District.

Laity Reception at Watkinsville First UMC, Jan 22, 3 pm.

Clergy Reception at Tuckston UMC, Jan 23 at 10 am.

Wesleyan Core Term Covenant Service

“Drawing upon the work of early Puritans, John Wesley developed a special service that strongly advised believers to self-surrender to the God of grace, and that included a strong encompassing prayer to do this. In response to God’s gracious gesture of covenant toward us, the service provided believers the opportunity to accept the offer and respond with a statement of trusting resignation to God. Charles Wesley’s hymn “Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine” with its bold pledge “for God to live and die” was frequently incorporated into the covenant service.” (Wesley Study Bible, pg 821)

OUR CHURCH CARES

How may we Pray for you? Where is our Presence needed? How may we support you or others with our Gifts? How may we Serve you?

How may we share our Witness and Testimony?

contact Pastor Ed.

Cell 706.265.9229

Email: wedngc79@live.com

Carnesville Church Office 706.384.2232

Parsonage 706.384.3893

Vanna

United Methodist Church

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything but I can do something. And what I can do, I ought to do. And, by the grace of God, I will do.”

January 8, 2017

Covenant Renewal Service

I AM NO LONGER MY OWN, BUT THINE

PUT ME TO WHAT THOU WILT, RANK ME WITH WHOM THOU WILT.

PUT ME TO DOING, PUT ME TO SUFFERING.

LET ME BE EMPLOYED FOR THEE OR LAID ASIDE FOR THEE.

LET ME HAVE ALL THINGS, LET ME HAVE NOTHING.

I FREELY AND HEARTILY YIELD ALL THINGS

TO THY PLEASURE AND DISPOSAL.

AND NOW, O GLORIOUS AND BLESSED GOD,

FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT,

THOU ART MINE AND I AM THINE.

SO BE IT.

AND THE COVENANT WHICH I HAVE MADE ON EARTH,

LET IT BE RATIFIED IN HEAVEN.

AMEN.

-JOHN WESLEY

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.”

- Isaiah 60:1

Rev. Ed Dickens, Pastor